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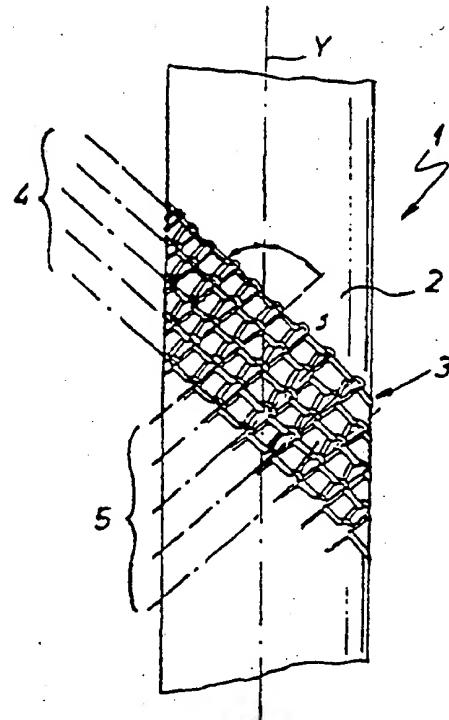
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: REINFORCED FLEXIBLE HOSE

(57) Abstract

A reinforced flexible hose includes at least one inner tubular layer (2) of plastic or rubber; a knitted reinforcement (3), which has substantially parallel rows (4) and lines (5) of substantially parallel stitches, with respective stitch counts per unit length of the hose ( $N_m$ ,  $N_r$ ); and an outer layer (6) which is superimposed on the reinforcement layer (3) to protect it. The knitted reinforcement layer (3) is provided in the form of a single tubular layer and is wrapped around the outer surface of the inner tubular layer (2); the rows (4) and lines (5) of stitches are substantially helical, with respective longitudinal pitches ( $P_m$ ,  $P_r$ ) and inclinations which are mutually opposite with respect to the longitudinal axis (Y). The longitudinal pitch ( $P_r$ ) of the lines (5) of stitches is substantially proportional to the square of the outside diameter ( $\phi_o$ ) of the inner layer (2), whilst the number of lines ( $N_r$ ) of stitches per unit length of the hose is directly proportional to the outside diameter ( $\phi_o$ ) of the inner layer (2).



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